

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER  
JROC - Week 1 – Greater Works Than These You Will Do  
September 17, 2023

*...he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.* How often do we focus on Jesus' present ministry? What is Jesus' "present ministry"? Do we know why Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit after He departed? How is our walk with the Lord impacted by Jesus' High Priestly ministry and by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

Is Jesus your great High Priest?

Is the Holy Spirit your Comforter?

What is Jesus doing NOW? What has He been doing for the past 2,000 years?

Where was the Holy Spirit during OT times?

Where was the Holy Spirit during the time Jesus lived on earth?

Why did Jesus tell the disciples...

John 16:7 - *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

These questions are pertinent to how we are living as believers in Jesus now. These questions are crucial to our walking with the Lord now – being conformed to His image...and being in step with the Holy Spirit! AND, understanding Jesus' instructions to the disciples before His crucifixion and following His resurrection will give us information re: the significance of Jesus' ministry now along with the ministry of the Holy Spirit now in light of God's overall plan...and how our lives should be impacted!

At their last Passover Seder together in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, Jesus dismissed Judas Iscariot by telling him, *What you do, do quickly.* The remaining eleven disciples were then told

by Jesus that He would be departing – alone - and that they could not accompany Him! The disciples lived with Jesus for 3.5 years. Can we imagine how the disciples felt? We need to put ourselves in the disciples’ sandals. We need to put ourselves in the context...in the moment – between 30 and 33 AD – before Jesus’ crucifixion!

John 13:33 - *Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’* Jesus then conveyed a new commandment... John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* <sup>35</sup> *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

The disciples had been bound by a mutual love for Jesus. Now they were to be bound by a mutual love for each other...and for others. Others? After leaving the upper room that night, the “others” they encountered were violent and hateful. “Others” are often times very difficult to love. And, to love like Jesus would love them...how exactly would that look? Loving sacrificially! Have you and I asked ourselves when we’re attempting to love others, “Am I loving them like JESUS loves them?” Jesus’ love had brought Him from the glories of heaven

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to this earth to serve as a bondservant...to make Himself of no reputation (Phil. 2:7). Bondservant - one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of another. Jesus’ love for the world took Him to the cross!!

Jesus sat alone with His eleven disciples in the Upper Room. From Jesus’ heart He spoke, “Let not your heart be troubled.” They were troubled! They were struggling with feelings of abandonment. Jesus used the word “orphans.” Jesus and the disciples had been inseparable. He was there when they awoke...when they called for help...when they said, “Good night.” Suddenly, all that was going to change.

John 14:12-14 - *Most assuredly (verily, amen, surely, truly), I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. <sup>13</sup> And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask anything in My name, I will do it...<sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphans.*

GREATER things? “Most assuredly! HOW?”

John 14:16 - *I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever....* Not “a” Helper...and not “to help.” Comforter - *parAKletos* – the One called alongside – to please another’s cause; an intercessor/advocate.. “Another” – in the Greek means “another just like Myself.” The disciples would not be left alone; they would not be forsaken.

John 14:17-18 - *the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphans.* There would NOT come a time when the Spirit of truth, the Holy the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit would be taken away from the disciples...or from us.

Was Jesus speaking of an indwelling relationship that would be permanent? Isn’t that a comfort? The permanent ministry of the Comforter Whom Jesus promised to the disciples would empower them for what was to come! And what was to come following their time with Jesus in the Upper Room at Passover, was not anticipated by the disciples! What was to come...Jesus’ crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost – their proclaiming the Gospel, the good news of forgiveness of sin through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus! This had to be empowered by God the Holy Spirit Who would be IN them indwelling and empowering them as He is in believers in Jesus!

What did the disciples know about the Holy Spirit? They knew about the life-giving Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding written in the scroll of Isaiah (Isa. 11:2). What do you and I know about the Holy Spirit? We know from the OT and the NT. Do we know?

There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others see the Holy Spirit as an impersonal power that God makes available to followers of Jesus. In a [2014 Christian survey](#), 50 percent of self-identified evangelicals

stated that they think the Holy Spirit is more like a force than a person. They would call the Holy Spirit “it”!

How much attention should we give to the Holy Spirit in our prayers, worship, and devotion? Does the Spirit even want our attention? These two questions have been asked by believers!

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Do we realize that the Holy Spirit is often misunderstood? How do we need to understand the Holy Spirit? BIBLICALLY! What does the Bible proclaim about the Holy Spirit? Biblically, the Holy Spirit is an active divine person in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is fully engaged in His mission - the mission of God in the world – as He is GOD the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is ETERNALLY God the Holy Spirit! As one of the three persons of the one God, the Spirit shares a single divine will with the Father and the Son. We cannot separate worship and prayer to the Father and the Son from worship and prayer to the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is GOD! “Praise God” – those worshipful words are repeated consistently in Psalm 146 through Psalm 150!!! God the Holy Spirit is omnipresent/everywhere present. Psalm 139:7-8  
God the Holy Spirit is omniscient/all knowing. I Cor. 2:10-11  
God the Holy Spirit is omnipotent/all powerful. The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit is noted by His work in creation - Genesis 1:2. Job 26:13. Psalm 104:30. In addition - Acts 1:8. Luke 1:35. 6:19. Romans 8:11. 15:13, 19. 1 Thessalonians 1:5. 2 Timothy 1:7. 1 Peter 3:18.

The Gospel of John clearly speaks about the Son glorifying the Father (John 13:31; John 17:1), and both the Father and the Spirit glorifying the Son (John 13:31; John 16:14; John 17:1). But who glorifies the Spirit?

John 16:12-14 - *I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority (Gk. – the Holy Spirit shall not speak of Himself!) but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

John 14:17 - Jesus spoke to His disciples about, *the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.* Jesus, in revealing truth concerning the Holy Spirit in the upper room, divided the Holy Spirit’s ministry into two timeframes: before Pentecost and following the descent and indwelling of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

“Dwells with you” is a reference to the special relationship of the Holy Spirit with some men before Pentecost...which was enjoyed by the disciples with the Holy Spirit during Jesus’ first coming. That relationship was enjoyed by other individuals throughout the OT.

“...and shall be in you” is the post-Pentecost experience. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to indwell every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Individuals in the OT did have the privilege of an experience with the Holy Spirit. He dwelled with some; He came upon some. It was said, per Scripture that He dwelled in some

(Joseph, Gen. 41:38; David, I Sam. 16:13; Daniel, Dan. 5:10-11). The Holy Spirit came upon individuals in the OT to give them special privileges, to empower their hands with skill, to open up their tongues to speak, to give them ability to lead or guide the nation Israel.

John 7:37-39 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.* What needs to occur prior to the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

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Prior to Pentecost, there were multitudes upon multitudes who knew God in a personal relationship, whose sins had been forgiven. NOTE: The book of Hebrews, inspired by the Holy Spirit, tells us of the multitudes of OT saints (Heb. 11:32-40). Was God the Holy Spirit at work? INDEED! Faith comes from God (Eph. 2:8-9)! And in recalling all about whom he, the author of Hebrews had written...described them as *so great a cloud of witnesses* (Heb. 12:1).

How were "so great a cloud of witnesses" saved, born again? To emphasize the Holy Spirit's ministry of regeneration, J. Dwight Pentecost, Professor at DTS, said, "You ask me, 'Do you believe men were born again before the day of Pentecost?' Of course, I do! No man ever came into the family of God apart from being born into that family. No man ever came into the family of God apart from the work of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit regenerates. The Holy Spirit is eternal. The Holy Spirit regenerated individuals in the OT!

Jesus, nearly three years before His death, told Nicodemus, *Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.* Jesus verified that the Spirit's work in the OT brought men to a new birth – to regeneration. That aspect of the Spirit's ministry did not change after Pentecost.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all believers since Pentecost has created the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13). Being baptized into the body of Christ is a NT truth (I Cor. 12:13). The body of Christ, comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus, is the one new man (Eph. 2:14-16)...the Church – which was a mystery in the OT.

God the Holy Spirit has a special ministry in the Church Age in which He indwells and seals every believer at the moment of salvation (John 3:3; 14:16-17; 1 Cor 6:19; Eph 1:13; 4:30). At the moment of regeneration, the Holy Spirit baptizes each believer into union with Christ and gives spiritual gifts that can be developed for the edification of others through spiritual maturation (1 Cor 12:13; Rom 12:6-8).

The Holy Spirit produces fellowship among the members of the body of Christ, He fosters an intimate relationship with God the Father and God the Son and with Himself.

How should we be responding?